

May 4 – Wednesday

7:30pm

## Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem

1hr 55min – Drama - Hebrew

An Israeli woman seeking to finalize a divorce (*gett*) from her estranged husband finds herself effectively put on trial by her country's religious marriage laws. In Israel, there is neither civil marriage nor civil divorce; only Orthodox rabbis can legalize a union or its dissolution, which is only possible

with the husband's full consent. Trapped in a loveless marriage, Viviane Amsalem has been applying for a divorce for three years, but her religiously devout husband Elisha continually refuses. His cold intransigence, Viviane's determination to fight for her freedom, and the ambiguous role of the rabbinical judges shape a procedure where tragedy vies with absurdity and everything is brought out into the open for judgment.



[www.musicboxfilms.com/gett--the-trial-of-viviane-amsalem-movies-](http://www.musicboxfilms.com/gett--the-trial-of-viviane-amsalem-movies-)

May 5 – Thursday

7:30pm

## Deli Man

1hr 32min – Documentary - USA

The principal guide of *Deli Man* is the effusive and charming Ziggy Gruber, a third-generation delicatessen man, owner and maven who currently operates one of the country's top delis, *Kenny and Ziggy's* in Houston. *Kenny and Ziggy's* has been touted in press reviews ranging from "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" to the L.A. Daily News.

"Texas?" you ask. Shalom, y'all. Because the story of the American deli is the story of Jews. How this burgeoning tribe moved and thrived from city to suburb and from suburb to strip mall, and in the process created a legacy and new generations of wealth, is the sunny topside of the Jewish-American journey. The shadowy understory is how that very success engendered the deterioration of the old, traditional urban block and neighborhood – the epic synagogues, Mom and Pop storefronts, and the nucleus of Jewish cultural life at which the deli was the succulent heart.



[www.delimanmovie.com](http://www.delimanmovie.com)

## Our Sponsors

The Jewish Film Festival Committee would like to thank the following for their generous contributions

### The Oscar

The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation

### Director

The Subar Foundation

### Producer

Dr. Jeff & Sheila Frank  
Dr. David & Karen Reifler  
The Sherman-Hay Family  
Lanny Thodey

### Actor

Thomas Fox  
Thomas & Karen Haight  
Dr. Don & Bluma Herman  
Lori Jacobs  
Dr. Julian & Judith Joseph  
Jim & Sheryl Siegel

### Fan

Dr. Madelon & Joel Krissoff

May 5th – Thursday at 6:15 p.m.

## FILM FESTIVAL DINNER

in the Wave Room

Catered by Twisted Rooster (Fish/Dairy meal)

Adults: \$10.00 - Children (12 and younger): \$5.00

RSVP May 2nd to Jewish Federation: 942-5553 or

[Leigh@jfg.org](mailto:Leigh@jfg.org)

Jewish Film Festival Committee

Carey Fleischer • Sheila Frank • Karen Haight • Bluma Herman  
Elaine Hoffman • Julian Joseph • Michele Kanig  
Bev Niedelson • Sue Remes • Judy Subar • Mort Zukerman



May 1st - 5th

@ Celebration! Cinema North

**B-BOY**

**BLUE TATTOO:  
DINA'S STORY,  
JOE'S SONG**

**MY SO-CALLED ENEMY**

**TO LIFE!**

**THE FAREWELL PARTY**

**GETT: THE TRIAL  
OF VIVIANE AMSALEM**

**DELI MAN**

Film Festival is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation and other private donors.

Additional Information:  
616-942-5553 [www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org)

# Welcome to the 2016 Jewish Film Festival

Welcome to the 18th Annual Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. We are thrilled to continue our festival at Celebration! Cinema North. Jack Loeks Theaters and Celebration! Cinema have continued their generous support of the Jewish Film Festival.

Listed in the program are Film Festival committee members, many of whom spent a considerable amount of time screening films, attending committee meetings, making arrangements for special events, and volunteering to usher and sell tickets.

The committee has selected a variety of movie genres, in English or subtitled. The material is generally family oriented, although parental guidance is always advised.

Also listed in the program is a roster of our sponsors. Their generous donations allow us to keep individual ticket prices affordable for film lovers.

On behalf of the Film Festival committee and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, thank you for your interest and patronage.

*The 18th Annual Film Festival Steering Committee*

## Jewish Film Festival Mission Statement

The mission of the Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids is to entertain and to educate. The Festival uses the power of film to challenge conventional perspectives on complex and dynamic issues facing the Jewish people and the community as a whole. It also provides a forum for the Grand Rapids community to have dialogue with filmmakers, producers, writers and expert panelists. Please join us as the Festival brings our community together for five days of cultural enlightenment and entertainment.

## General Information

All films are presented at Celebration! Cinema North located at the corner of Knapp Street. & East Beltline, Grand Rapids, MI.

All Individual Tickets are \$6.00

For Tickets and information contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids: (616) 942-5553  
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
or visit us at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)

*Despite our best intentions and efforts, sometimes arrangements go awry. If necessary, we reserve the right to change or cancel movies or locations.*

## May 1 - Sunday B-Boy

14min – Documentary – USA

Thirteen-year-old Eli navigates two diverse cultures while coming of age as a bar mitzvah and a competitive breaker in this moving short documentary about the power of passion, dedication and community. Eli, aka “E-Break”, is a studious school kid on the brink of adolescence whose talent for dance lands him a coveted position on a crew that competes in battles all over the country. It is a world of fierce talent and loyal bonds, and as Eli finds his way, he dreams about winning to fanfare – and reflects on the importance of friendship, family, and losing with grace.



<http://bboydoc.com>

1:30pm

## May 1 - Sunday Blue Tattoo: Dina's story, Joe's song

39min – Documentary – USA

Music has the power to touch both the mind and the heart. The film *Blue Tattoo: Dina's Story, Joe's Song* explores the relationship between Holocaust survivor Dina Jacobson and folksinger/songwriter, Joe Crookston. Through a series of events their paths crossed, a friendship was formed and a song was written. Together they developed a bond that would help keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and the lessons of humanity relevant to this and future generations.



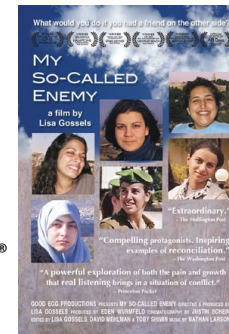
[www.bluetattoo.com](http://www.bluetattoo.com)

*There will be Q&A after the screening with Guest Speaker: Rich Kellman, Filmmaker of Blue Tattoo.*

## May 1 - Sunday My So-Called Enemy

1h 30min – Documentary – Israel/USA

Spanning seven years, *My So-Called Enemy* follows six Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls committed to justice and mutual understanding after participating in a women's leadership program called Building Bridges for Peace. This heart and mind-opening film, from Emmy® Award-winning director Lisa Gossels, documents how the young women's transformative experience of knowing their “enemies” as human beings in the United States meets with the realities of their lives back home in the Middle East. This film presents the complexities of Israeli/Palestinian conflict through a human lens.



<http://mysocalledenemy.com>

7:30pm

## May 2 – Monday To Life!

1hr 30min – Drama - Germany

Jonas, a young man on the run, arrives in Berlin just in time to save Ruth's life. Evicted from her apartment, the sarcastic but warm-hearted aging Jewish cabaret singer saw no other way out than suicide. Meanwhile Jonas, driven by a secret, is also fleeing from his love and his future. As Ruth recovers, she and Jonas form a deep bond informed by her own tragic love for a non-Jewish man in post-WWII Germany - a love burdened by the legacy of the horrors perpetrated by Nazi Germany. As Jonas discovers Ruth's past and takes part in her present, his attentions and the passionate, lusty Yiddish songs of her youth help her find the way back to life. In turn, when Ruth learns Jonas is incurably ill, she helps him find the strength to tackle his fears, and to forcefully propose “*L'Chaim – To Life!*”



[www.menemshafilms.com/Life](http://www.menemshafilms.com/Life)

7:30pm

## May 3 – Tuesday The Farewell Party

1hr 35min – Comedy/Drama - Israel

*The Farewell Party* is a unique, compassionate and unlikely funny story of a group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home who decide to help their terminally ill friend. When rumors of their assistance begin to spread, more and more people ask for their help, and the friends are faced with a life and death dilemma.



7:30pm